

A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic goals in the areas of energy, environment, defense and science.

■ INL Names New Associate Laboratory Director

Dr. Phillip J. Finck will join INL Oct. 19 as associate laboratory director for Nuclear Programs. Finck is an internationally recognized expert in advanced reactor and fuel cycle systems. He is noted for his technical leadership in reactor design and analysis, code development and validation, nuclear data and, more recently, in systems analysis. Immediately prior to coming to Idaho, he served as associate laboratory director for Applied Science and Technology at Argonne National Laboratory, where he was responsible for coordination of all nuclear energy-related activities. A distinguished nuclear researcher, Finck received his doctorate in nuclear engineering at MIT in 1982, and earned an MBA from the University of Chicago.

■ Work Continues on Test Range Consolidation

INL engineers are in the final stages of designing a consolidated explosives test range which would be used to conduct performance and resiliency tests on structures and protective barriers in support of DOE and other federal agency missions. The proposed test range would be located several miles north of INL's Materials and Fuels Complex and would be used to perform blast effects analysis, structural resiliency testing, and trace and bulk explosives detection for homeland defense applications. INL scientists have a long history of analyzing the effects of explosives materials and developing award-winning technologies for explosives detection. The range would be rated for explosives tests ranging from several hundred to several thousand pounds of TNT equivalent.

■ Scientist Recognized for Contributions to Cancer Treatment Research

The International Society for Neutron Capture Therapy has announced that INL's David Nigg will receive the Hatanaka Award, presented every two years in recognition of sustained research contributions to the field of Neutron Capture Therapy. Nigg has directed research in Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT) at INL since 1994. BNCT is commanding the attention of scientists worldwide as a promising treatment for glioblastoma multiforme, a terminal form of brain cancer. INL research in neutron dosimetry, biophysics and boron chemistry has added significantly to the pool of knowledge surrounding the field over the last two decades. Nigg will receive the award at the 12th International Symposium on Neutron Capture Therapy in Takamatsu, Japan, Oct. 9-12, 2006.

INL Innovations Cited as Among Best in Idaho

Two technologies developed by teams of INL researchers were recognized this month with first-of-their-kind Idaho awards. The Robot Intelligence Kernel and Medical Actinium for Therapeutic Treatment each received a Stoel Rives Idaho Innovation award at a luncheon in Boise attended by well over 200 science and technology company, university and government leaders. The Robot Intelligence Kernel, represented by David Bruemmer and Miles Walton, won in the computer software category while the Medical Actinium technology, represented by David Meikrantz, was singled out in the biosciences and medical devices area.

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